

AUG 12 2009

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
03-01-2011

Delores M. Nelson
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Madam:

This letter constitutes an administrative appeal under the Freedom of Information Act, 5. U.S.C. Sec. 552(a)(6).

I am writing to appeal the determination by the Central Intelligence Agency with regard to my FOIA request filed on 29 June 2009, File number F-2009-01324 for records concerning Turkish drug trafficker Ihsan Sekhban (also known as Laz Ihsan or Ihsan Seymanoglu), who was active in the drug trade between 1940 and 1980. By letter of 15 July 2009, the Central Intelligence Agency denied my request in accordance with FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). The agency has stated that it can "neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of requested records responsive" to my request.

I premise this appeal primarily upon two grounds. Firstly, information related to Ihsan Sekban and to the CIA's knowledge of his activities exists already in the public domain. His activities as a drug trafficker is cited by a *Newsday* expose entitled "The Heroin Trail" (for which the paper received a Pulitzer Prize in 1974). This can be found in the enclosed Attachment A. A great many declassified documents related to Federal Bureau of Narcotics' investigations into Ihsan Sekban's criminal enterprises can also be found in the National Archive in Silver Spring, Maryland. In one document (which I have enclosed in this envelope as Attachment B) dated 24 July 1950, reporting FBN agent Charles Siragusa states that Istanbul CIA station chief Ghosh Zogby produced information related to Ihsan Sekban's activities.

Secondly, I submit this appeal with the understanding that information related to Ihsan Sekban is entirely of a historical nature. Ihsan Sekban, according to my understanding, has passed away and, with that, all investigations into his criminal enterprises have ceased. I seek the release of information into Ihsan Sekban's activities for the purposes of writing a full-length monograph on the history of drug trafficking in the Middle East during the twentieth century.

I look forward to receiving your decision on this appeal within the 20-day statutory time limit. If you have any questions, or believe discussion of this matter would be beneficial, please contact me directly at [redacted] or [redacted]

Sincerely, [redacted]

[redacted]
Ryan Gingeras
[redacted]

Attachment A





